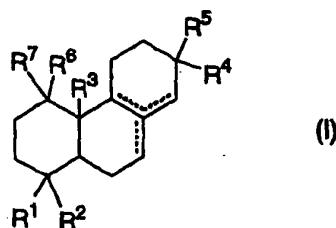


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

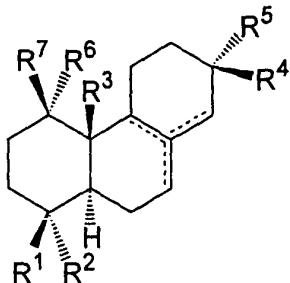
Claims 1-11 (cancelled)

12. (New) A Method of opening potassium channels, which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound represented by the formula [I]:



wherein R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, halogenated alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide, aldehyde or nitrile; or R⁴ and R⁵ may be bonded to each other to form a ring; or R⁶ and R⁷ may be bonded to each other to form a ring; and all of three bonds represented by ---- are single bonds, or one of the three bonds is double bond and the other bonds are single bonds,
or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof to a mammal including a human in need thereof.

13. (New) The method according to Claim 12, wherein the compound is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein R² is hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, acyl, carboxyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide or nitrile;

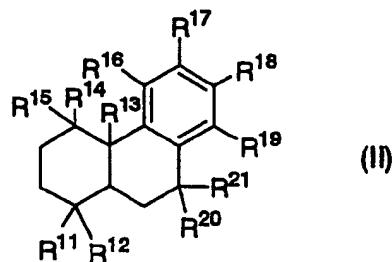
R^1 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 and R^7 are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, halogenated alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide, aldehyde or nitrile; or R^4 and R^5 may be bonded to each other to form a ring; or R^6 and R^7 may be bonded to each other to form a ring; and all of three bonds represented by are single bonds, or one of the three bonds is double bond and the other bonds are single bonds.

14. (New) The method according to Claim 12 or 13, wherein R^1 , R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are alkyl or alkenyl, R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen and R^2 is carboxyl, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

15. (New) The method according to Claim 12 or 13, wherein the compound is a substance selected from the group consisting of the following compounds: (1) a compound wherein R^1 is alkyl, R^2 is carboxyl, R^3 is alkyl, R^4 is alkenyl, R^5 is alkyl, and R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen, (2) a compound wherein R^1 is alkyl, R^2 is carboxyl, R^3 is alkyl, R^4 is alkyl, R^5 is alkenyl, and R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen, and (3) a compound wherein R^1 is alkyl, R^2 is carboxyl, R^3 is alkyl, R^4 is alkyl, R^5 is alkyl, and R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen, and a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

16. (New) The method according to Claim 12, wherein the compound is a substance selected from the group consisting of pimamic acid, dihydropimamic acid, dihydroisopimarinol, sandaracopimamic acid, isopimamic acid, and dihydroisopimamic acid, and a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

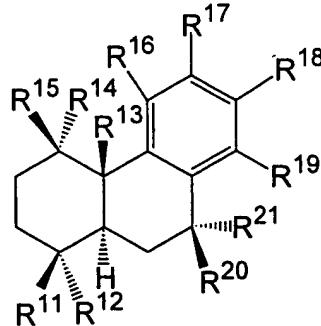
17. (New) A method of opening potassium channels which comprises administering a compound represented by the following formula (II):



wherein R^{11} , R^{12} , R^{13} , R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{17} , R^{18} , R^{19} , R^{20} and R^{21} are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, halogenated alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide, aldehyde or nitrile; or R^{20} and R^{21} may be bonded to each other to form oxo,

or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof to a mammal including a human in need thereof.

18. (New) The method according to Claim 17, wherein the compound is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein R^{12} is acyl, carboxyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide or nitrile; R^{11} , R^{13} , R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{17} , R^{18} , R^{19} , R^{20} and R^{21} are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy,

halogenated alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide, aldehyde or nitrile; or R²⁰ and R²¹ may be bonded to each other to form oxo.

19. (New) The method according to Claim 17 or 18, wherein R¹¹, R¹³, and R¹⁸ are alkyls, R¹² is carboxyl, R¹⁴, R¹⁵ and R¹⁶ are hydrogen, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.
20. (New). The method according to Claim 17 or 18, wherein R¹¹, R¹³ and R¹⁸ are alkyls, R¹² is carboxyl, R¹⁴, R¹⁵, R¹⁶, R²⁰, and R²¹ are hydrogen, and R¹⁷ and R¹⁹ are halogen, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.
21. (New) The method according to Claim 12 or 17, wherein the potassium channels are calcium-activated potassium channels.
22. (New) The method according to Claim 12 or 17, which method is for prevention and/or treatment of essential hypertension, tonic bladder, airway hyperresponsiveness, or ischemic central nervous system disorder.